A

SERMON

Preach'd to the PEOPLE, by an able Divine

AT THE

Meccat-Crols

OF

EDINBURGH,

On the Subject of the *Union.*

Ecclesiasticus, *Chap.* X. *Ver.* 27.

Better is he that Laboureth and aboundeth in all Things, than he that boasteth himself and wanteth Bread.

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Eccleſiaſticus, *Chap.* X. *Verſe* 27.

Better is he that Laboureth and aboundeth in all Things, than he that boaſteth himſelf and wanteth Bread.

DEarly Beloved Country-Men and Fellow-Citizens, ſuffer me to ſtop you a little in the furious Carreer of your Paſſion, to hear a few Words of ſober and unprejudiced Reaſon; I hope they will not be the leſs grateful, if I accoſt you in that manner of Rhetorick, which your Ears are moſt accuſtomed to: I have choſen an Apocryphal Text, becauſe my Subject is not Sacred, but Secular, but if it has not the Stamp of Divine Inſpiration, it is taken from a Book, which of all that are not Canonical, contains the moſt ſublime, moſt uſeful, and moſt approved Maxims of Wiſdom, whether private, OEconomical or Political, and as all Wiſdom and Truth cometh from God, in that Senſe my Text may be ſaid to be of divine Authority.

Dearly beloved Country-Men, a Generous, Powerful and Victorious Nation invites you to an intimate Union with themſelves, a Nation whoſe Laws are more Juſt, whoſe Government is more Mild, whoſe People are more Free, Eaſy and Happy, than any other in *Europe*: A Nation who by their Wealth, Wiſdom and Valour, have broke the

the most formidable Power that ever threatned *Christendom*: To whose victorious Arms even you your selves owe your present Security: This Nation, I say, invites you to a Co-partnership of all the Advantages they now enjoy, or may reasonably hope for. A gracious Queen of the ancient Line of our own Monarchs, desires nothing more than that the People from whom she derives her Blood, should enjoy the same Liberty and Plenty with others whom Providence has called Her to Govern. It might justly have been expected, that such a generous Proposal would have been welcom'd with the universal Acclamations of all *Ranks* and *Degrees* of People; instead of that you have received it with Riots, Mobs, and Tumults; If the Offer had not been profitable, it was at least civil, and deserv'd a friendly Reception, and a courteous Answer: A Treaty that was enter'd into at the desire of your own Parliament, as well as that of your Neighbours, and carried on by the Authority of the common Soveraign of both; such a *Treaty*, I say, was a matter of that weight, as made it a very unfit Subject for the Judgment (much more for the Scorn and contempt) of Boys, Apprentices, and Tradesmen: But since the transcendant Wisdom of your Leaders have thought otherways, let me beseech you in the words of my Author, *Eccles.* 11. 7. *Blame not before thou hast examined the Truth, understand first and then rebuke*: To enable you in some measure to make such an Enquiry, I have chosen the words of my Text, *Better is he that*

boureth and aboundeth in all Things, than he that boasteth himself and wanteth Bread.

From the words you may observe a very intimate *Conjunction* between three dismal Companions, *Pride*, *Poverty*, and *Idleness*; this is a worse Union a great deal than that which we are to discourse of at present these three love extreamly to keep Company, and I could never gues's for what Reason, unless it be to teaze and vex one another: *Poverty* does what she can to starve *Pride*, & *Pride* eats out the Heart, Blood and Guts of *Poverty*, and *Laziness* will not stir an Inch to relieve either: That these three fatal *Sisters* may not only be separated, but eternally banish'd this Kingdom, it shall be the Subject of my following Discourse to show, that it's better to encrease our Trade, Manufacture, and Riches, by an Union with *England*, than to boast of our Soveraignty, and starve: *For better is he that Labourth & aboundeth in all Things, than he that boasteth himself and wanteth Bread.*

And here indeed it must be prov'd, that an *Union* with *England* will increase our Trade, and Manufacture: in order to which, I will ask the greatest Zealot against the *Union*, a few Questions, and let him answer me if he can. Whether the great Difference betwixt the Wealth of *Scotland* and *England* is entirely owing to the natural Advantages of *England*, as of *Fruitfulness* of *Soil*, *Situation*, *&c.* Or, if it does not in some measure proceed from political Causes? *Scotland* is equal at least in Extent to a *Third* of *England*, its Peo-

ple more healthful, more prolifick, and more temporate; why has *England* then seven times the Number of People? Every Acre in *Scotland* is not barren, nor every Acre in *England* fruitful, how comes it then that *England* has fifty times the Riches of *Scotland*? For example, why does *Oxfordshire*, not so big as *Fife*, pay to a Land-Tax, near as much as all *Scotland*? Are there not many Places on each side the Firth of *Forth*, which exceed the Town of *Newcastle*, in Soil, Situation, Products Natural and Artificial: How comes it to pass then that the *Town of Newcastle* has more Trade, more rich Merchants, and pays more Customs than all the Towns in *Scotland* put together? It is plain, these great Differences do not proceed meerly from natural, but likewise from *Political Causes*; nay it's easy to assign a piece of *England* equal in extent, much inferior in the Gifts of Nature to some part of *Scotland*, and yet Triple in Value. I know *Wales* is brought by some as an Instance to prove that an Union will not encrease the Trade and Riches of a Mountanous Country, that their Condition is not bettered by an *Union* with *England*: To this I answer, that the matter of Fact is false: If the Objection has any Strength, it ought to prove, that *Wales* would not be the worse to be depriv'd of the Benefit of the Trade of *England*: a Paradox too sublime for any *Welshman* but most obvious to the Elevated Understandings of some of our worthy Patriots. 2*dly*. I say, the Comparison is not fairly stated betwixt the worst part of *England* and the best of *Scotland*, *Wales* in many places does not exceed the *Highland* of *Scotland*, in any thing except the height of the Mountains; But letting a-

ſide all theſe things, let us ſtate the Compariſon. The Twelve very ſmall Counties of *Wales* contain 917 Pariſhes, 58 Market-Towns, 316000 People, and pay 43752 *lib. ſterl.* to the Land-Tax, which ſhows they are almoſt equal to half the Number of People in *Scotland*, and pay near as much Taxes as the whole. And it's known, that *Wales* is more under-Rated in their Taxes, and eaſier in the Exciſe than *Scotland*. Thus you ſee it would be hard to find 12 of the richeſt Counties in *Scotland* to compare with an equal Number and leſs Extent of the worſt in *England*, which is, as I laid a Demonſtration, that the Riches of *England* is the Effect of Policy as much as of Nature; And is it not as plain, that the Protection of the ſame Laws, the Influence of the ſame Government, the Partnerſhip of the ſame Plantations, and of all other Privileges, Foreign and Domeſtick, will much better the Condition of *Scotland*? There is hardly any ſubject of Trade of the Growth of *England*, which we are totally deprived of; and we have one Peculiar, which kind Providence and Nature has afforded us, tho' we never had the Grace nor Induſtry to make uſe of it; I mean our Fiſh; thus we ſtarve with that Commodity at our doors, from which our Neighbours the *Dutch* draw the very Foundations of their Wealth and Maritime Power. Will you then ſtill be fond of that ill Government and Management which even deprives you of the Proviſion that Indulgent Nature has thrown into your Mouths. But ſome will ſay, Has not our Convention of Burrows Choſen Men, ſkill'd in the deepeſt Myſteries of Trade, of eminent Abilities and greater Integrity? Have not they told us, that the Trade of *England* is *Unſupportable*, that is, *Intollerable, not to be endured*; which is as much as if they had

had said, We have no Grandeur of Soul to support so great Wealth and Prosperity: We must be contented to live like Pedlers, whilst *English* Merchants live like Princes? *Where is now Pride? Where is now your Boasting?* But say you again, the same Convention of Burrows, not less skilled in Politicks than in Trade, have told us that the Trade of *England* is precarious. It is hard to Answer all the unreasonable Fears and Jealousies of People. Has *Wales* since their Union, ever complained of the Breach of one Article? Is there any one Privilege that an *Englishman* enjoys, which a *Welshman* is deprived of? Do all the other Counties unite to oppress *Yorkshire*? There are indeed some Inequalities of Taxes amongst themselves wherein they have thought fit not to depart from a Rule once establish'd; But this is so far from being a Discouragement to *Scotland* that its their greatest Security, it shows how unwilling and uncapable a Parliament is, to recede from *Quota*'s already settled, tho unequal: Besides, Matters in a free Government never go with that Unanimity, nor in a *British* Parliament will Parties ever be so unequally trim'd, that it will not be in the Power of a lesser Number than the *Scots* Members to cast the Ballance; and if necessary, so to preserve themselves from Oppression; and 'tis highly probable, that the Party of the *North*, and *West*, who are under-tax'd, after an Union will be much strengthn'd. I shall add no more on this Head, but that *England* has oppressed *Scotland* ten times more, since the Union of the Two Crowns, than ever they will be able to do after the Union of the Two Parliaments. But says the same Ingenious Convention, to show their Skill in Political Arithmatick, the Taxes of *England* are *Unsupportable*; To this I Answer, That it was hardly

hardly ever known, that a Nation was afraid of high Customs upon their Import and Consumption; when did that ever ruin any People? That is just as if a Man should complain that he could not be rich, because he has not leave to spend his Money: Or that he will not accept of a Lairdship, for fear of paying two Months Cess. With those intollerable Customs the *English* Merchants live higher, and acquire much greater Riches than ours do. As for the Land-Tax it can hardly ever be higher, and will be often nothing, or much lower than what we now pay. Indeed the Encrease of Trade will be attended with an Encrease of Excise, and the Benefit of the one will be much greater than the Damage of the other; but then the *Effect* will not exceed the *Cause*, with this Advantage, that all that is raised by the Publick beyond the present Sum, by the *Articles of the Treaty*, is to remain in the Country: If after all you should want Money to pay your Taxes, I can propose no better Expedient than that of the Gospel, *Launch out into the Deep and let down your Nets*, and you may fetch your Tribute-Money out of your Fishes; for after an Union you will have Stock to employ your People to catch them, and Vent for them when they are catch'd.

Another Objection is, *That an Union with* England *will draw our People out of* Scotland *to the Metropolis of the Government, and to the Plantations*: To which I answer, That after an *Union* there are many Reasons and Inducements for our People to stay at home, that do not subsist in the present State, but not any one (Living their Attendance in the *British* Parliament) to draw them abroad. How many People at present leave their Country for want of Employment, I may say for want of Bread, is evident to every Body that knows either *Scotland*, or other *Countries* where Multitudes of *Scots* are to be met with: *Nay*, I appeal to

every

very Family in the Kingdom, if they have not Relations broad, some where or another; and this is the *Cause* why *Scotland*, notwithstanding the *Health Temperance* and *Fruitfulness*, of the Inhabitants, is under-peopled: Now is it not extreamly probable, that the Encrease of Trade would allow and keep many at home, that are now forc'd to seek their *Bread* in *Foreign Countries*, and not only so, but when the *Restraint* of the *Laws* of *Trade* is taken off, the Cheapness of Living and Manufacture will invite People from other Parts into *Scotland*; particularly the *Scots* who are now settled in the *West-Indies*, would chuse to purchase and establish their Families in their own Country, not being any more restrained by *Acts* of *Navigation*, from the returning their Effects thither. *2dly*. If any *Scotsman* at present has a mind to settle in *England*, the minute he sets his Foot on *English* Ground, he has the Privileges of an *English man*: What then can intice him to leave his own Country after an Union, more than before? I should imagine he would be less tempted to do so, because he can then have the same Privileges of Trade, and all other Immunities in staying at home, which now he cannot have without going into *England*.

If you say, that after an Union, his Access to Preferment in the Publick stations of the Government, and consequently his Temptations to go to London *will be greater: That is an ill Advantage, for then he goes to get an* Estate, *and not to spend one; and he will readily Purchase in his own Country. If our Gentry and Nobility have a mind to spend their Estates at* London, *I know no Law at present that restrains them, only Necessity which is no Law: That indeed after an Union may be less. Many of our Nobility and Gentry are now continually at* London, *few to Govern, some to Oppress, many to Complain, and all for strife and Contention: And suppose by their Attendance on a* British *Parliament, the number of those should be doubled, Scotland gets little by an Union, if it is not able to discharge the Expence of* Thirty *Noblemen and Gentlemen, at the rate of* 2000 *l. this Man, and perhaps the Times may not be so hard, but some of them will carry more down than they brought up.*

Thus,

Thus, I think, I have fully Anſwered this Ob
jection, which is ſo far from being of any weigh
that I muſt entreat you, by Kindneſs, and natur
Affection, you bear to your *Children*, and *Relat*
ons; by the Comfort of their *Society*, and havin
them eſtabliſh'd amongſt our ſelves, in a flouriſh
ing Condition; by the *Cauſalities* and *Danger*
and by the unfortunate and fatal End which the
Strowling into foreign *Countries* often expoſe
them to: By all theſe moving Arguments, I b
ſeech you to Embrace ſo fair an *Opportunity* o
making them and your ſelves *Happy* for *Ages* t
come: for as the wiſe man ſays, *Eccl.* 29. and 2
It is a miſerable life to go from Houſe to Houſe, fo
where thou art a Stranger thou dareſt not open th
Mouth; thou ſhalt Entertain and Feaſt and have n
Thanks. Moreover thou ſhalt hear bitter Words
theſe things are grieveous to a Man of underſtanding
Thus I have gone through my firſt Head, and hav
prov'd that the Sun ſhines at Noon-day, and
call the ſame Sun to Witneſs againſt your match
leſs Ignorance, and Stupidity, if you reject ſo fa
vourable an offer of *Liberty Peace and Plenty.*

I proceed now to the ſecond Part of my Tex
which is your boaſting of your *Soveraignty. mu*
we looſe that? muſt we be no more a Kingdom? I
the firſt place, I would ask any reaſonable Man
Do we loſe our Soveraignty in any other Senſe
than *England* does? Is there not a new Title
new Seal, new Arms, and the ſame changes fo
them as for us: *For I take an Incorporating Unio*

be, as if two Pieces of Mettal, were Melted down in-one Maſs, neither can be ſaid to retain its former orm or Subſtance, as it did before the mixture. We an never be ſo unreaſonable as to pretend to an pual Number of Repreſentatives in a *Britiſh* arliament. when two Nations joyn in a common ſembly, the moſt Powerful and moſt Numerous ill ſtill be the moſt Powerful and moſt Numerous; hatever Mettal exceeded before the Mixture, he ſame will exceed in the Maſs. It is Impoſſi-ble to change the Nature of things. According o this way of reaſoning, it is not only impoſſible for *Scotland* ever to Unite with *England*, but for any leſſer Nation ever to Unite with a greater: Why is it more diſhonourable for *Scotland* to Unite with *England*, than it is for *England* to Unite with *Scotland*? What is it that *Scotland* looſes? The Country, the People are not Annihilated, nor does an Union cauſe that all the worthy Deeds, that have been done at any time by the *Scots* Nation, or *Scotſmen*, are forgot. A *Welſhman* would take it very unkindly, if we ſhould tell him that by this Union with *England*, he has fully'd the Glory and Antiquity of the ancient *Britiſh* Race. None can have a greater value for the noble Atchivements and Honour of our Anceſtors, than I have: But as for our Independancy, ſo much boaſted of, tho' it be moſt certainly true in it ſelf, and undeniable in Law, as well as juſtifiable from Hiſtory, yet at preſent, it is in effect only Precarious, Imagenary, and Fantaſti-

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cal; and is no more than the Priviledge to
Govern'd by a Miniſtry under Foreign Influenc
which I ſay not to inſinuate the leaſt Reflectio
on our preſent miniſtry, who have had the Ho
nour to act a greater part, in putting an end to
Grievance ſo much complain'd of, a Bleſſin
perhaps in vain to be expected or look'd for a
another time. Can any Man be ſo deſtitute o
common Senſe, as to think his *Liberty and Pro*
perty, more ſafely and more honourable lodg'd in
ſuch Hands, than in thoſe of a *Britiſh* Parlia-
ment? Now in lieu of this titular Soveraignty,
and imaginary Independancy, by an Union you
acquire true and ſolid Power and Dominion, to
have Sixty Mem bers in a *Britiſh* Parliament; the
twelfth ſhare of diſpoſing of 600000 *l.* of Mo-
ney, which is the ſame with the ſole Power of
diſpoſing of 50000; to have your Fleets and Ar-
mies Conquering Abroad: The Arbitration of
the Affairs of *Europe*: Your ſelves Repreſented
in Foreign Courts and Aſſemblies. When had
Sixty *Scotſmen* Affairs of that Importance laid be-
fore them? To have your Nobility Peers of *Great-*
Britain, with their Perſons and Reputations Sa-
cred over the Iſland: and their Lives only Sub-
ject to the Inqueſt of a *Britiſh* Houſe of Lords:
To have your Quato of the moſt eminent Poſts
of the Government of *Great-Britain*; are no
theſe things Subſtantial, Power and Dominion,
preferable to the Trifles you now enjoy, beſides
that the value even of thoſe will be encreaſed,

and

nd as it not more eligable to have ſuch a ſhare, oth of the Government of your ſelves, and of *ngland* than to be manage by Favourites, often ontrary to your moſt apparent Int'reſts.

But all theſe Advantages may be obtain'd by a Fœeral Union, ſome ſay; it is an amazing thing, to onſider how People are Ban er'd out of their ommon Senſe, with meer Names and Chime-'s. To avoid Multiplicity of Words, by a Fœeral Union, I ſuppoſe is ment that the *Engliſh* ould Barter their Trade, for our ſettling of eir Succeſſor. I would deſire any Man who inks ſuch a Bargain feazable, to make the fol-owing Reflections. In any Vote that ever paſt et in *Scotland* againſt the Settling the Succeſſion, hither he thinks that *England* could not Pur-haſe the *Majority* of that *Difference* at a cheaper ate, than the *Liberty* of their Trade and Planta-on? Let them ask the *Conſciences* of thoſe who oted againſt the Settlement of the *Succeſſion*, if e hopes of a *Fœderal Union* was the *Motive* that duc'd them to do ſo? Let them ask thoſe that oted for it, if they will Vote ſo no more till e have ob ain'd it? To ſhew how *unſincerely* ey deal, who make this their Pretence. Many f theſe Gentlemen will be contented to Set-e the Succeſſion on any Terms, But *2dly*. Where there ſuch a *Fœderal Union* betwixt two Nations ithout a common *Aſſembly*? The *Confederate Pro-nces*, and the *Confederate Cantons* have one were e *Repreſentatives* of all the particular Bodies met. *dly*. Can any Man believe that the Engliſh will

maintain

maintain *Plantations*, garison them, and defend the
with their *Fleets* and *Armies*, to let the *Scots* wh
are at none of these *charges*, reap the *Profit* of th
Trade? Will they establish *Customs* and *Duties*,
the Rule of their Export Abroad, and Consumptio
at Home, and suffer the *Scots* to trade without an
Rule of *Customs*, or no *Customs*, *high* or *low*, as the
please? If they would do this, it were no hard ma
ter to have the *Monopoly* of their *Trade*. This we
a most precious Jewel indeed, and very well wort
contending for. But if such a *Concession* should
thought unreasonable, I would desire in the nex
place to know, how a common Expence in *Mai*
taining and *Providing* for *Forts*, *Plantations* an
Factories, and can be carried on without a commo
Treasury and Government. And *Lastly*, if the *Eng*
lish should allow us such a Priviledge, can we b
secure of it, without we have our Representative
in their Parliament to take care of our Interest
And can any Man of Sense think, that we should b
more unsecure of our Priviledges. when we hav
Members in their *Assembly*, than when we have none
When we are Domesticks, than when we are Stran
gers? In the former case, nothing destroys our *Pri*
viledges but what dessolves the *Union*: For it is hard
ly possible to conceive, that all the other Countrie
should *Unite* to hinder a *Yorkshire* Man to trade t
the Plantations, when the Riches he acquires by hi
Trade goes to the Support of the Government o
which they themselves are Members. In the cas
of one Nation, and one People, it is indifferent t
the Supreme Power, in what part of *Great-Britai*
their Riches lie.

I shall conclude this Article with the words o

wiſe Man, *Eccleſ.* 54. 1. *The hopes of a Man void of Underſtanding are Vain and Falſe, and Dreams, lift up Fools.* I have ſet before you to day, on one hand, Induſtry and Riches; on the other, Pride end Poverty. I have not required a blind aſſent to what I affirm, I have not impos'd my Opinion becauſe it is faſhionable, or becauſe ſuch a Lord who is my Friend and Patron thinks ſo, or becauſe Ms. *John* or Ms. *James* ſaid ſo: Or becauſe my Drunken Companions ſwear, Damn them it is ſo. I deal with you as reaſonable Men, and have purpoſely inſiſted on ſuch Arguments, as are obvious to the meaneſt Underſtanding. I Conclude with a general Exhortation to all Ranks, and Degrees of People, to promote this good Work. It is manifeſtly the *Intereſt* of your Landed-Men, for the Encreaſe of Trade and Manufacture will double, yea, triple the value of your Eſtates, by raiſing the Prince of the Product, and the number of the Purchaſers: Beſides, your Lands being generally in the worſt repair, that is, in the moſt improveable Condition, and your Security by the uſe of a Regiſter, the beſt in the Iſland; No doubt, after the reſtraint of Laws is taken off, Strangers will be encouraged to Purchaſe among you. Why then will you chuſe to live in a miſerable moyling Condition, paying high Intereſt for Money, which Land-rents cannot diſcharge, having no way to diſpoſe of your younger Children, but by ſending them abroad into the *wide World* to ſeek their *Fortunes*; whereas after the Concluſion of this great Affair, you will have opportunities to employ them in Trade and Buſineſs, and Acceſs (according to Merit) to the beſt Poſts of *Great-Britain*. As for our *Tenants*, the neceſſity of your *Maſters* is the occaſion of your *Poverty*; Trade will

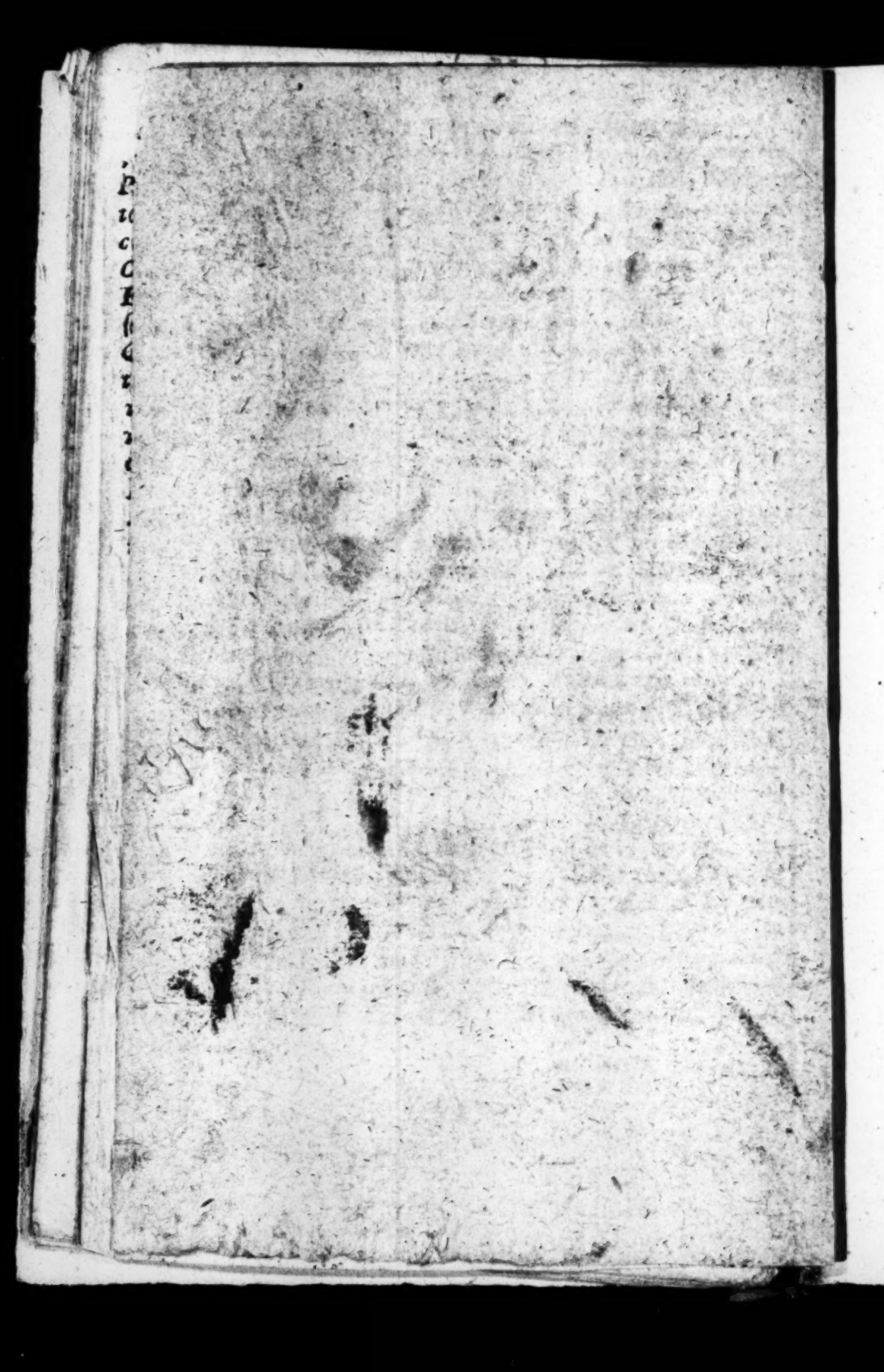
enable

enable them to let longer Leases, and you to take them; and confirm you intime to English Customs where Masters govern a Free People, and are duly payed their Rents, and Tenants enjoy what remains with equal Security. As for our *Tradesmen*, the value of your Manufacture will be raised, you will have the opportunity to dispose of it, not only over all the Illands, but over all the World: You are Ingenious, Industrious, and live Cheap; what then can hinder you to be more Rich than those who have less of all these Qualities? Where there are Hands to work, and Simples to work upon, and *Vent* for the Manufacture, it is impossible but there must be Trade: If our own Stock is not sufficient, you will be *assisted* by that of *England*: The very *novelty* of the thing will in some measure contribute to this; for all the Branches of Traffick in *England*, being Traded bare, where there are new Subjects of Trade, Merchants will try new Projects, their Interest will never suffer them to be partial to this, or that Country, but will send their Money where they can have the best Bargain. And you poor *Labourers* shall raise your Wages from Twopence to Twelve pence, from Ten pounds to a Hundred pounds.

You see the Objections used by the Oppolers of an Union, are either trivolous, founded upon gross Falshoods, or do plainly prove the contrary of what they are adduced for: And I have that opinion of the Understanding of several of the Anti Uniters, that they do not so much as convince themselves: They are only a Vail drawn over your Eyes, to hide from you your present Poverty and Slavery, and the glorious Prospect which an Union with *England* presents you with. You are used only as Tools and Machines, to bring about their Factions and Ambitious Designs. However, I shall beseech all such Gentlmen and Persons of Quality, to consider that it is not a slight Matter to sacrifice the present

present and future *Prosperity* of their *Country*, to an unreasonable Humour, to make a numerous People and their Posterity, Beggars and *Slaves* for Ages to come, and perhaps their Country a Field of Blood, by endeavouring to entail this upon their Neighbours as well as themselves: or if they are sway'd with some Reason of less importance, as the Treaty not being of their own Framing, I desire them to consider, that this is so very Childish, that *Senator* should be asham'd to own it. If the pretty little Masters their Children should take their Fathers places in *Parliament*, such a Reason would hardly be allowed to pass current among them: An Union is a Matter of great Weight and Importance, and very Good, or Bad in it self; if it is a bad Thing, our most intimate Friends the Treaters, can never recommend it: If it is a good Thing, it is so great a good that we ought not to refuse it from those against whom our Personal Resentments run highest. Among the Opposers of the Union, I know a great many *Persons* of *Honour*, who have as true a *Sense* of Liberty, and as great a Concern for the Welfare of their Country, as any; such need only lay aside some few *Prejudices*, and Reflect: Their Judgements will quickly inform them of the true value of the *Proposal*. *To such as are afraid of the Church Religion, I shall only say that the Religion of the Church of* England *is impos'd upon no Man within the Dominions of* England: *As for the Squeemishness of sitting in Parliament with Prelates, and the fear of being Disarm'd of all other Weapons, but what are allowed by the Gospel; these are such Unchristian Dissuasives from an Union, that to mention them only, is to refute them. The putting an end to Uncharitable and Unreasonable Divisions about our trifling Differences in Religion, is one of the great Benefits Scotland will reap by this Union. I am not so much terrified at the Vision of a noble Lord, as he is himself, but heartily wish to see a Plantation of as Rich* Jews *as any in* Amsterdam, *as Rich* Independents, Quakers *and* Anabaptists *as any in* England, *settled in all the Trading Towns of the Kingdom: Not but that I think all Motives that are not Penal, ought to be us'd for their Conversion, but I would not have Churchmen afraid of the Encrease*

of

their Manufacture too: for Hereticks are properly the Subject which they are to work upon: To be afraid to live among Hereticks, to refuse the Task their Master has impos'd upon them. Their Predecessors the Apostles us'd to go at the hazard of their Persons to Preach the Gospel to the Jews; they are afraid the Jews should come to them, where they run no risque at all, in attempting their Conversion. In a word, if any unjust Tyranny over the Persons, Estates, or Consciences of Men be the Motive which prevails with some to oppose this Union, I would have such consider, that to Govern a Free People, is a more noble and honourable Character, than to Insult over Slaves and Beggars; and if any such there be, who hug their Chains, and are fond of their Raggs, and as a wretched People once did the Romans, refuse their Liberty when offered, they are unworthy of so generous and beneficial a Proposal. Lastly, If this is only a Suffle raised by the United Force of the Skillin and Lovisd'Or; let such consider, that both of them are not to be put in the Ballance with the Guinea, which they may get by their Industry. Consider then in this your Day, the happy Condition of your Neighbouring Nation; survey their verdant Fields, beautiful Plantations, and sumptuous Gardens, where Culture, Art and Expences Reign; their populous and flourishing Cities: View the Magnificence of their publick Structures; the Neatness, Cleanliness, Conveniency and costly Furniture of their private Houses; Consider the Liberty and Plenty of their meanest Commons; the comfortable Estates which even the basest of their Tradesmen leave to their Families; the immense Riches of their Merchants; the Grandure and Magnificence of their Extraordinary Societies, the prodigious stocks of their Trading Companies, the unconquerable Force of their Fleets and Armies, the Justice and exact Execution of their Laws, and the Wise Administration of their Government. Ponder all these things, and then sure you will not reckon them your Enemies, who offer you a Partnership in so great Blessings; but will conclude with these wise Men in my Text, Better is he that Laboureth and aboundeth in all things, than he that boasteth himself and wanteth Bread.

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